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Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES
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MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 02-09 DATE: February 6, 2002

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: New Jersey Supplemental Prenatal Care Program (NJSPCP)

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services is pleased to announce the continuation of the New Jersey Supplemental Prenatal Care Program (NJSPCP).

BACKGROUND:

As you recall, the NJSPCP was originally designed to provide ambulatory services to pregnant women who could not qualify for New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs because of the Medicaid 5-year bar for legal immigrants entering the country after August 22, 1996. These women are now served under the NJ FamilyCare program.

Funds were appropriated through the State Fiscal Year 2002 Appropriations Act to continue the NJSPCP. This program now provides limited state-funded prenatal care services through hospitals and clinics to pregnant women who would have otherwise qualified for coverage under the New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs or NJ FamilyCare, except for their immigration status.

SERVICES:

Services available to eligible pregnant women under this program are limited to primary care, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services provided by hospitals and clinics only. The NJSPCP provides no payment for labor and delivery services or postpartum care. Coverage for labor and delivery services is available through the Medical Emergency Payment Program for Aliens.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Pregnant women with incomes below 200% FPL;
- Meets all other qualifications for the New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs or NJ FamilyCare, except for immigration status.

ELIGIBILITY PROCESSING:

A pregnant woman will initially apply for the NJSPCP through a certified Presumptive Eligibility Provider. The Division's Presumptive Eligibility Unit will accrete eligibility for the NJSPCP to the Medicaid Status File based upon the Presumptive Eligibility Provider's certification. This allows the pregnant woman immediate access to prenatal care while awaiting a determination of eligibility by your agency.

As with the existing presumptive eligibility program, the pregnant woman will be required to complete the application process for full eligibility under the NJSPCP. This may be accomplished through your county outstation staff, or in the absence of outstation staff, by submitting a completed New Jersey Care Pregnant Women and Infants Application (FD-335) or the NJ FamilyCare application to your agencies before the end of her initial presumptive eligibility period. Extensions of presumptive eligibility will be granted in those cases where the pregnant woman has fulfilled her responsibilities in the process, but is awaiting a final determination by your agencies.

Although the process for determining presumptive eligibility is the same as with any other pregnant woman, there are some minor differences once you have determined that the woman qualifies for coverage under the NJSPCP. Currently, presumptive eligibility pregnant women begin to receive a monthly Medicaid card with a new identification number once full eligibility has been determined by your agency. However, even after your agencies have determined full eligibility for this group of eligible pregnant women, they will continue to receive monthly Presumptive Eligibility Identification Cards through the month in which the pregnancy ends. **It is not necessary for your agencies to assign a new Medicaid Identification Number.**

Disposition forms generated for pregnant women eligible for services through the NJSPCP will be uniquely identified with "NJSPCP" noted at the top of the form. These disposition forms should be given priority, since continued eligibility for this program depends upon your agency's final eligibility determination.

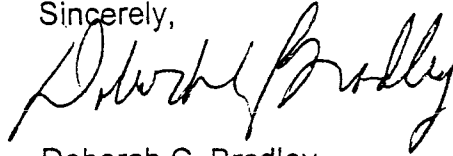
When a final determination of eligibility is completed, the disposition form indicating the finding should be forwarded to the DMAHS Presumptive Eligibility Unit no later than one week after the end of the presumptive eligibility period. If the pregnant woman has been determined eligible, the Presumptive Eligibility Unit will extend presumptive eligibility in one-month increments, through the month in which the woman is expected to deliver. Conversely, if a pregnant woman is determined ineligible for the NJSPCP, her presumptive eligibility will terminate at the end of the latest presumptive eligibility segment.

These women will be identified on the Medicaid Status File with the Program Status Code 391. They will receive monthly Presumptive Eligibility Identification Cards, with a message that states **"Services limited to prenatal, provided by clinics and hospitals only"**.

Since the NJSPCP provides no labor and delivery or postpartum care, eligibility for the Medical Emergency Payment Program for Aliens should be established by your agencies no earlier than the third trimester to cover labor and delivery services.

Questions concerning this communication should be directed to the Presumptive Eligibility Unit at (609) 588-2911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah C. Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Deborah C. Bradley
Acting Director

DCB:Tt

c: Clifton Lacy, M.D., Commissioner-Designate
William Conroy, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Health and Senior Services

David C. Heins, Director
Division of Family Development

Charles Venti, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services